

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07721

STATE FOR EUR/RPM; DEFENSE FOR USDDRE, ASDISA, ASDC,
ASDMRAL, ASDC3I; DA FOR SEC ARMY (CSA); NAVY FOR CNO;
AIR FORCE FOR CSAF

E. O. 11652: 12-31-84
TAGS: NATO, AORG
SUBJECT: POLICY COORDINATION AND TRANSMISSION TO USNATO

REF: (A) HQ, USAF 052330Z JUL 1978 (NOTAL),
(B) SECDEF 121918Z JUL 1978 (NOTAL), (C) SECDEF 092134Z
AUG 1978 (NOTAL)

1. COORDINATION OF INSTRUCTIONS TO AMERICAN FOREIGN
SERVICE POSTS IS A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE.
WHEN INSTRUCTIONS ARE RECEIVED WHICH DO NOT BEAR THE
IMPRIMATUR OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR HIS ALTERNATE,
THERE IS UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE COORDINATION SUCH
INSTRUCTIONS HAVE ENJOYED IN WASHINGTON. THERE HAVE
BEEN SEVERAL RECENT INSTANCES BRINGING THIS POINT TO
MIND.

2. THE NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS INVOLVES THOUSANDS OF
MEETINGS AT MANY LEVELS ANNUALLY. IN ADDITION TO PERSONS
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REGULARLY ASSIGNED TO THIS MISSION, SOME 4,000 OTHER
AMERICANS ARRIVE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ANNUALLY, AND
MOST OF THESE REPRESENT THE US AT NATO MEETINGS. THIS
MISSION PROVIDES ADMINISTRATIVE, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS,
SUPPORT TO ALL OF THEM. IT REMAINS ESSENTIAL THAT
GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON FOR USE IN NATO MEETINGS
REFLECT REQUISITE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION.

3. WITH THE LATTER VIEW IN MIND, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ESTABLISHED A SINGLE FOCAL POINT TO BLEND DEFENSE AND STATE POLICY REQUIREMENTS, THEREBY ASSURING A SINGLE POLICY FOCUS AND A SINGLE SOURCE FOR POLICY GUIDANCE IN DOD. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS WAS CHARGED WITH THIS FUNCTION. ACCORDINGLY, POLICY GUIDANCE ORIGINATING WITHIN OTHER OFFICES IN DEFENSE WAS TO BE COORDINATED THROUGH ISA WITH STATE AND FINAL TRANSMISSION TO THE FIELD WAS TO BE VIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE MESSAGES.

4. THE COMMUNICATIONS UNDER REFERENCE ARE RANDOM EXAMPLES OF MESSAGES RECENTLY RECEIVED AT THIS POST WHICH DID NOT REFLECT COORDINATION ALONG THE LINES JUST DESCRIBED. IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH CAN ARISE FROM UNCOORDINATED INSTRUCTION TO THE FIELD, WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF PERTINENT WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES. WE DO THIS NOT WITH THE INTENTION OF PLACING ARBITRARY AND BUREAUCRATIC BLOCKS IN THE WAY OF GOAL ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT RATHER TO ENSURE THAT THE US SPEAKS IN THIS INTERNATIONAL FORUM WITH A COORDINATED VOICE. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL TO EXERCISE FULL COUNTRY-TEAM AUTHORITY OVER ALL UNITED STATES
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ACTIVITIES AT NATO.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE "GREY AREAS" CAN ARISE CONCERNING TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES TO HIGHLY TECHNICAL MEETINGS WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO ONLY ONE AGENCY OR EVEN A BRANCH THEREOF. WE BELIEVE THAT THE VALUE OF COORDINATION IS SUFFICIENTLY GREAT TO WEIGHT ANY SUCH CASES IN THE DIRECTION OF USING COORDINATED CHANNELS.

6. ACTION REQUIRED: REQUEST ADDRESSEE ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM. BENNETT

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